

NEWS RELEASE

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Future of animal agriculture is summit topic

Stakeholders to review animal rights activism in Tennessee

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (Dec. 3, 2009) — What will the future hold for animal agriculture in Tennessee? Who will determine that future? Industry stakeholders will have an opportunity to ponder these questions during the first Tennessee Animal Agriculture Summit set for Thursday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Murfreesboro.

The meeting is aimed at arming livestock owners with the facts about animal rights activism and its agenda in Tennessee. Summit participants will also have the opportunity to learn about their rights and obligations under existing state laws governing agriculture and animal welfare.

Kay Johnson Smith, executive vice president of Washington, D.C.-based Animal Agriculture Alliance, is the keynote speaker. She will provide an overview of the activities of animal rights groups such as the increasingly influential Humane Society of the U.S. and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Smith has provided hundreds of presentations on the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in response to the animal rights activist social movement in the U.S. She is frequently interviewed by media such as USA Today, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, NPR, Voice of America, and trade publications. She has worked with groups throughout the country to strategically manage activist campaigns targeting their businesses.

Also on the program is attorney Lynda Motes Hill, head of the equine law practice group for Miller & Martin PLLC of Chattanooga. She will detail Tennessee's existing animal welfare laws and producers' rights under those laws.

The Tennessee Animal Agriculture Summit is being hosted by the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, Tennessee Pork Producers Association, Tennessee Poultry Association (TPA) and several equine groups. It is open to all animal agriculture industry stakeholders. There are no registration fees, however pre-registration is requested. To pre-register, call the TPA office at 615-896-2372 or contact any sponsoring association by Jan. 20.

The Embassy Suites Conference Center is located at 1200 Conference Center Blvd. just off Interstate 24 at Exit 76 in Murfreesboro.

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